

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 INSE-00 VO-03

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

----- 045645

R 290852Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 898

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USUN NEW YORK 830

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 15104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES - BOAT CASES

REF: STATE 240076

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES SHORT TERM PRACTICAL ADVANTAGES
REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTER MIGHT OFFER BUT SHARES BASIC
RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONCEPT EXPRESSED IN KUALA LUMPUR 4888.
IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY
OF GOP AGREEING TO CENTER BEING LOCATED IN THE PHILIPPINES.
AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, TREND IN GOP, SET BY FORSEC ROMULO
PERSONALLY, IS TOWARD LESS ACCOMMODATING POSTURE VIZ A VIZ
BOAT REFUGEES. THUS, SUGGESTION THAT GOP MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE
TO REGIONAL CENTER IS NONSTARTER.

2. DESPITE OUR VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONALIZE
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REFUGEE PROBLEM BY ACTIVELY INVOLVING UNHCR, VIETNAMESE

REFUGEES ARE VIEWED HERE AND ELSEWHERE AS UNFORTUNATE
FALL OUT OF PROBLEM FOR WHICH U.S. RESPONSIBLE. GOP
AGREEMENT TO REGIONAL CENTER WOULD NOT COMPORT WITH
ITS EFFORT TO STRESS INDEPENDENCE FROM U.S. AND ESTABLISH
CREDENTIALS WITH DEVELOPING WORLD. ADDITIONALLY,
ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH CENTER COULD HAVE DELETERIOUS EFFECT
ON GOP RELATIONS WITH SRV, SOMETHING WHICH GOP WISHES
AVOID. IN ADDITION TO BILATERAL CONSIDERATIONS, WE
SUSPECT PHILIPPINES' ASEAN PARTNERS WOULD NOT WELCOME
PROSPECT OF MEMBER STATE ESTABLISHING CENTER WHICH
MIGHT SERVE AS MAGNET TO SRV REFUGEES AND MAKE SRV-ASEAN
RELATIONS MORE DIFFICULT.

3. SINCE REGIONAL CENTER IN THE PHILIPPINES NOT LIVE
OPTION, WE FEEL PREFERABLE ALTERNATIVE IS THAT DISCUSSED
PARAS 9 TO 11 REFTTEL. WE ARE UNABLE JUDGE WHETHER
EUROPEAN CENTER IS TRULY PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE, ALTHOUGH
WE DO NOT BELIEVE PROBLEM OF INCREASED COSTS SHOULD BE
DETERMINING FACTOR IN DECISION.
SULLIVAN

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